IV/20

N°.2068.

The Orphans Caſe.

WHEREAS the Court of Aldermen made an Order in *January*, 1687. That all Improvements of every Branch of their Revenue over and above the Neceſſary Support of their Government, ſhould be applyed towards the Payment of their Debts, and Publiſhed the ſame in the *Gazette*.

We, the diſtreſſed Orphans of the City of *London*, would (if poſſible) propoſe for our Relief that which might anſwer our Juſt Debts, and not offend our Guardians, ſo as to make them our Enemies to oppoſe a Bill for our Relief, as hitherto they have done.

We are ſo far from ſtreightning the Government of the City, that we are not only willing, but deſirous that this Honourable Houſe will allow them ſufficient, not only for the neceſſary part, but likewiſe for the Splendour of their Government.

We find by the Account brought into this Honourable Houſe, by Order of the 25*th* of *November*, 1692. the City did make the Charge of their Government to amount unto the Sum of 9036 *l.* 7 *s.* or thereabouts.

We humbly conceive the following Sums given in by that Account, are not to be paid out of the Chamber of *London*.

Workmens Wages and Materials to repair the City's publick Buildings, 1500 *l.* For Pavements, Amendments of Ways and Shores, belonging to the City 420 *l.* becauſe theſe Sums by Cuſtom and Uſage of the City of *London* ought to be raiſed by *Fifteens upon the Perſonal Eſtates of the Citizens.

* *The not raiſing by Fifteens hath been the Cauſe of the Debts being ſo great.*

In the ſame Account is charged for Taxes 1000 *l.* every one that receives ought to pay his proportion to the Taxes, therefore not to be charged in the Account.

There is alſo Charged for Intereſt of 2700 *l.* 162 *l. per ann.* which ought not to be in that Account.

And the Sollicitors Bills *per* eſtimate 503 *l. per ann.* 300 *l.* of this may be deducted, the Orphans being to pay what relates to them.

Theſe Deductions being made, the Charge of the Government will then be 5654 *l.* 7 *s.*

May it pleaſe this Honourable Houſe to give the diſtreſſed Orphans leave to propoſe, that the Government may have paid out of the Chamber of *London* 6000 *l. per ann.* to diſcharge the aforeſaid Sum of 5654 *l.* 7 *s.*

That Power be given by Act of Parliament to raiſe 2000 *l. per ann.* on Perſonal Eſtates, by Act of Common Council for repair of publick Works in the ſaid City (if occaſion be) which formerly was, and ought to be raiſed by Fifteens.

The Bridge-Houſe Eſtate being about 3000 *l. per ann.* Ground-Rent, the Moiety with the Fines for Leaſes renewed, being ſufficient to keep the Bridge in good Repair, the remainder to be paid into the Chamber for the City's uſe, as formerly.

The Lord Mayor to have as formerly his Certainty of about 2000 *l. per ann.* The Lord Mayor and Sheriffs to have the preſenting of all Officers, as formerly, except the Cole-Meeters and Corn-Meeters; which Officers places that will remain to the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs with Fines for Offences committed in the City of *London*, and Fellons Goods, *&c.* may be eſtimated at 4000 *l. per ann.* at leaſt.

The Lord Mayor and Sheriffs by this propoſal will have 6000 *l. per ann.* and the Government 8000 *l. per ann.* beſides the Advantage of the Bridge-Houſe Eſtate.

We farther implore this Honourable Houſe, that in Mercy and Compaſſion to our Diſtreſſed Condition, you will be pleaſed to raiſe by a Duty on Coles, or what other way in your great Wiſdom you ſhall think meet, the Sum of 10000 *l. per ann.* which with the 6000 *l. per ann.* that remains of the City's Eſtate, making in all 16000 *l. per ann.* and what ever this falls ſhort at preſent of 4 *l. per Cent. per Annum* of our Principal and Intereſt, we may have Credit for, and be paid as the Revenue of the City is improved, until the whole 4 *l. per Cent.* be ſecured; and if any Overplus after this to go to the City, and to be managed by a ſtanding Committee of Common Council.

Whereas there is 6000 *l. per ann.* propoſed for the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs, part of which is Caſual, and may be more or leſs, as Offices fall, the Orphans do humbly propoſe (if the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs ſhall rather chuſe a Certainty) that they may have 5000 *l. per ann.* paid them out of the Chamber of *London* in lieu thereof; and whatever the Income is by Vertue of their Offices, may be paid into the Chamber of *London*, for the Uſe of the Orphans.

The reaſon why the Orphans have propoſed theſe Methods to have the utmoſt that poſſible may be raiſed by the Revenue of the City, when the neceſſary Charge of the Government is paid (as in Juſtice they ought) is, that they may be the leſs burthenſome to this Honourable Houſe at this time, when Publick Taxes are great.

The Orphans are ſo well ſatisfied in this Fund humbly propoſed, that they are willing to give ſuch Releaſes for their reſpective Debts as your great Wiſdoms ſhall pleaſe to appoint.